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REPLY TO
ATTN OF: SQUADRON SURGEON

15 June 1964

TO: Commander, [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Resume of Living Conditions at [REDACTED] May-June 1964

1. General: [REDACTED] station is located in a semi isolated area [REDACTED]. The climate is tropical and at the time of deployment season was late summer (just prior to rainy season). Living standards of the surrounding country are among the poorest and health standards are among the lowest in the world. People fail to observe even the most basic sanitary procedures and professional medical help is almost non-existent. Evidence of large scale public health programs is minimal. The most prevalent diseases are tuberculosis, cholera, typhoid fever, amoebic dysentery, and infectious hepatitis. Other health hazards are malaria, scrub typhus, filariasis, leprosy, and hookworm. [REDACTED] incidence of infectious diseases in the world.

2. Housing: The two man quarters provided were adequate in size and consisted of an air conditioned room with sink and dressing alcove. Each room had a private toilet and shower room. Beds and bedding were good. There were rather frequent but brief interruptions of water and electricity but these caused no hardship. The common room was not adequately furnished or air conditioned. Rooms were kept fairly clean by houseboys. Rats were only infrequent guests in the quarters.

3. Water: Water, which was provided by the [REDACTED] was drawn from the river and run through a coarse stone and sand filter. Liquid chlorine disinfectant was added to storage tanks on an average of every three to four days. This water was tested and found to contain E. coli and E. Histolitica, indicating human fecal contamination. The water must be classified as "Not Fit For Human Consumption". Mess hall water was either boiled or treated with chlorine (2ppm). Tap water and ice machine water were not treatable. Incidentally, only one ice machine was installed and this was used chiefly to supply the [REDACTED]

4. Food: "B" rations were provided through USAFE. This type ration is a fixed assortment of canned meat, vegetables, and fruit intended for use with locally provided fresh food supplements. For various reasons safe fresh food could not be obtained locally. Because of the foregoing, food served in the mess hall was grossly inadequate both from a caloric and nutritional standpoint. Even combat rations would have been superior to that provided. "B" rations should not be used for longer than one week without supplements; at [REDACTED] they were used for four weeks.

5. Waste Disposal: Food and paper waste was dumped locally without land fill attracting wild dogs and rats. Dish water was drained by open trench to a dry well within the compound. Toilets were drained into a separate dry well system. The dry wells appeared to be adequate but should be re-evaluated during the rainy season.

SECRET

SECRET

6. Mess Hall: Since the mess hall was not air conditioned the dining area was not too pleasant for eating and the kitchen became unbearably hot during periods of food preparation. The kitchen equipment sent from USAFE was incomplete. Of the fifteen field stoves sent only three were functional. No cooking utensils were provided and those purchased locally were of inadequate quantity, size and quality. It is to the credit of the two USAFE mess supervisors (not cooks) that any edible food was provided by this facility.

The native help in the kitchen was untrained and had not had the benefit of medical examination. Methods of cleaning the mess hall and utensils were haphazard even with constant goading.

Dry food storage was not good, cold storage was acceptable.

7. Recreation: Recreation was limited and this had a bad effect on personnel. Volleyball, reading, model airplanes, cards, and drinking beer were the chief diversions. Nightly movies of the "Late, Late Show" quality were provided. Six off base trips [] were arranged. No outside activity was possible from 1000-1600 because of the extreme heat.

It should be mentioned that only three mail deliveries were made while personnel were at this location.

8. Medical Problems: Diarrhea of a lasting nature afflicted approximately 50% of the personnel. Several persons contracted impetigo contagiosa and many contracted less serious skin infections. Upper respiratory infections and gastrointestinal disturbances were prevalent. One detachment member was returned to the ZI with a fractured ankle and one was hospitalized with suspected cholera. Time will tell what chronic disease will develop in detachment personnel as a result of this deployment.

9. Driver Support: Quarters for the drivers was as for all others. A proper evaluation of crew rest facilities could not be made since only one mission was flown. Required preflight meals could not be provided at this location. Air conditioned transportation for the mission pilot was not available because of breakdown of the transport jeep.

10. Recommendations:

a. Carpeting should be removed from all areas. More thorough cleaning of quarters and mess hall be required.

b. Until the [] obtains an adequate filter plant and in-line chlorinator we use our own filter plant and water treatment tank at this site.

c. Both ice machines should be used and the [] supplied only after our requirements are met. If they need ice, let us buy them an ice machine of their own.

d. A revision of the food supply system should be made. Recommend fresh foods be supplied via C-130 through [] and staples not be dependent upon USAFE which is disinterested in our operation.

SECRET

SECRET

e. The mess hall should be air conditioned or at least properly ventilated.

f. The manning of the mess hall should be a minimum of two cooks and two cook's helpers. No locals should be used in the mess hall.

g. Paper cups and plates should replace chinaware and metal trays.

h. A coffee urn is highly desirable.

i. Dry storage areas should be made rodent proof.

j. Two cold storage reefers are required.

k. Proper kitchen facilities should be a reality, not a promise.

l. Waste products should be either burned or disposed of by sanitary land fill.

m. Drainage troughs and dry wells ought to be covered.

n. A definite system for air evacuation should be established.

o. Adequate air conditioned transport for mission driver should be available.

p. Recreation facilities should be improved and include indoor diversions. An R & R site should be arranged.

q. An evaluation for further problems should be made at the end of the rainy season.

11. Summary: This location, except for the quarters, is about as bad as a deployment site can be. Many improvements are required to make this a proper place for human habitation. Until such changes are made it is recommended that this site not be used for periods over 8-10 days duration.



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